

# Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Panico Break Ground At Former Buckley's Site In Center Moriches

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Pictured from left to right are Councilman Dan Panico, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Suffolk County Clerk Judy Pascale, Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine, Krishna Dixit, Head Priest of the Hindu Center in Queens and property owner Dr. Devendra Singh, president of Devendra K Inc.

**Farmingville, NY** - Today, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Sixth District Councilman Dan Panico presided over the ground breaking of a new construction project at the former location of Buckley's Pub at 386 Main Street in Center Moriches. The site, which has remained vacant for nearly five years, is one of ten "monuments to blight" identified in the Supervisor's town wide "Blight to Light" initiative. The new project will include a restaurant and office space.

Buckley's Pub was a popular downtown eatery until a fire destroyed a large part of the building on July 3, 2005. Six months later, the rest of the building was demolished to make way for reconstruction. It has now gone through Historic and Planning review and approvals have been issued for new construction to begin.

"This is a great example of how government and the private sector can work together to streamline the process and remove a monument to blight from the community," Supervisor Lesko said. He commented further that "out of these ashes will rise a new building and turn blight into light."

"I am pleased that the Buckley's site is going to be once again developed. Today marks another step on the path of revitalizing Center Moriches," commented Councilman Dan Panico. "As a former member of the Town Planning Board, who heard this application over a year ago, I am pleased to see it now come to fruition."

## About Blight to Light

On April 26, 2010, Supervisor Lesko proposed the Blight to Light initiative to eradicate suburban blight in the Town of Brookhaven. Lesko and the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency premiered a film, "Blight to Light", at Stony Brook University's Charles B. Wang Center, which for the first time ever portrays blight as opportunity. This site was one of the "monuments to blight" that Lesko highlighted. Following the premiere of the film, Supervisor Lesko introduced new proposals to provide incentives for redevelopment in the town, which includes the "B2L Grading System" that determines the level of incentive package. In addition, Supervisor Lesko proposed a blight study, a sewer analysis, a redevelopment overlay incentive district, and collaboration with the Long Island Housing

Partnership to administer a \$4.5 million affordable housing program grant that reduces the purchase price to new homebuyers up to \$25,000. The film can be accessed on you tube through the Brookhaven website at [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org).

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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